

Menu

How To Resize an Image in Photoshop and GIMP (Ultimate Guide)

Tiffani Anderson / January 20, 2022



The 2020 Web Almanac by HTTP Archive reports that images comprise over 64% of the page weight. Thus, learning how to resize an image in Photoshop can help you reduce the page document size and improve website performance.

Don't have access to Adobe Photoshop? No worries. We'll show you how to resize an image in GIMP too.

Keep reading to learn:

How To Resize an Image in Photoshop

How To Compress an Image in Photoshop

How To Resize an Image in GIMP

How To Compress an Image in GIMP

Final Thoughts: How To Resize an Image in Photoshop and GIMP

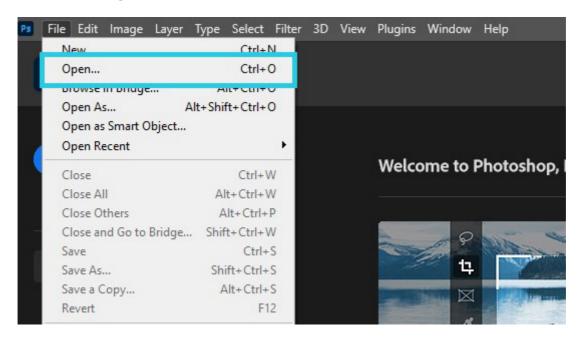
How To Resize an Image in Photoshop

- 1. Open the image in Photoshop.
- 2. Go to Image > Image Size.
- 3. Set the resolution.
- 4. Input the target Height and Width values.
- 5. Save your file.

There's no shortcut to resize an image in Photoshop without losing quality. Luckily, Adobe's interface makes the process extremely intuitive.

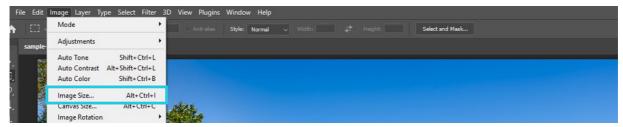
Here's how to change the dimensions of an image in Photoshop:

Step 1: Open the Image in Photoshop



Open the image in Photoshop by navigating to File > Open in the top menu bar.

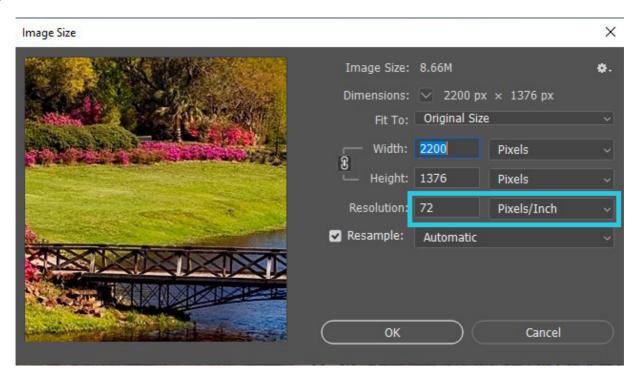
Step 2: Go to Image > Image Size





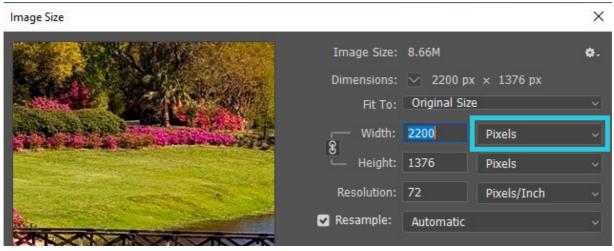
Go to Image > Image Size to launch the Image Size dialog box.

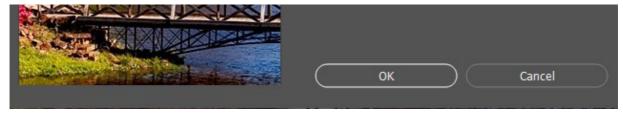
Step 3: Set the Resolution



Set the pixel dimensions to 72 pixels per inch (ppi) for web images. Anything higher will slow down your website — that's why it's usually only used for printing images.

Step 4: Input the Target Height and Width Values



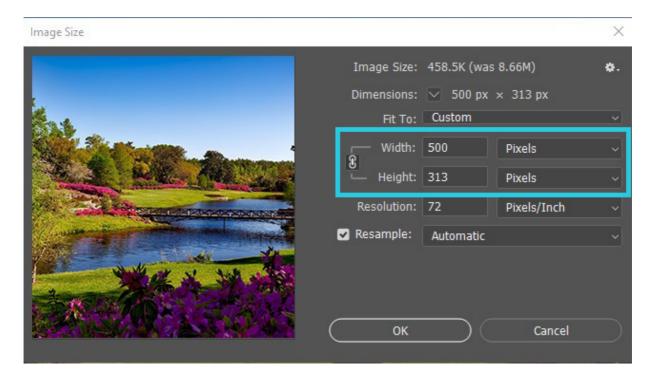


Select **Pixels** as the units of measurement using the dropdown menu.

The image proportions are linked by default. See the chain link icon next to them? That's the **Constrain Proportions** option. It means when you change one of the two values, it changes the other one proportionally.

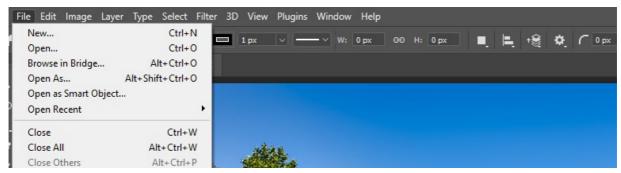
If you click on the icon and unlink the values, you'll be able to change the **Width** or **Height** independently.

The original size of our image is 2200px x 1376px. If we set the **Width** as 500px, the **Height** automatically changes to 313px.



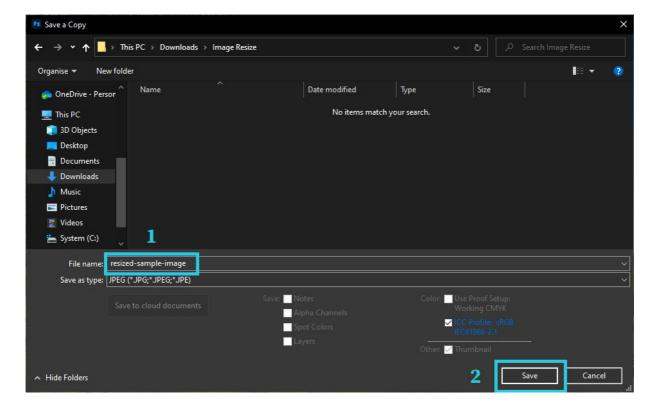
Set your target image size using the Width and Height options. Once complete, hit OK.

Step 5: Save Your File

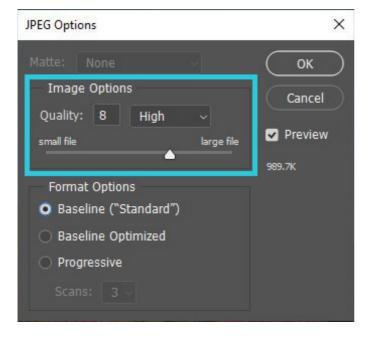




Go to **File > Save a copy** in the top menu bar.



Choose the file save location, add a descriptive name and click Save.



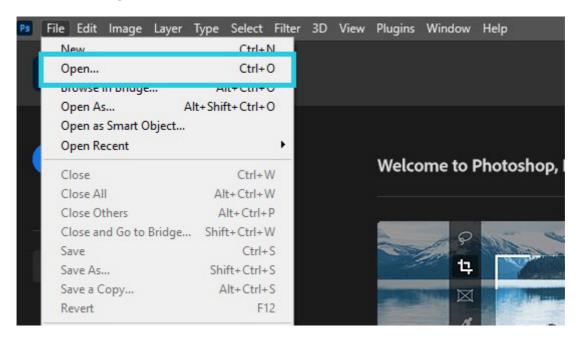
You'll see the **JPEG Options** box. You can adjust the <u>image quality</u> by dragging the slider up or down in the **Image Options** section. Or, use the default value and click **OK** to save.

How To Compress an Image in Photoshop

Besides resizing images, you can also learn how to compress an image in Photoshop to reduce its size and resolution. A combination of both techniques will help you resize images without losing quality.

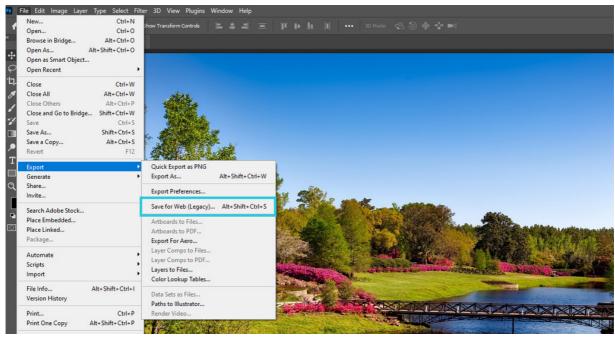
Here's how you do it:

Step 1: Open the Image in Photoshop

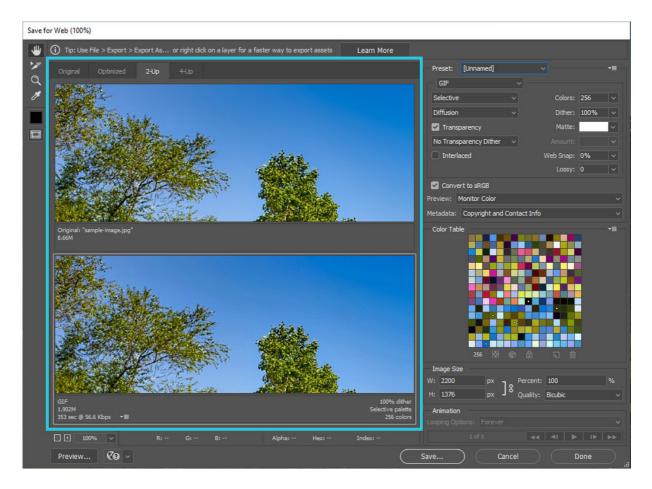


Open the image in Photoshop using the **File > Open** option in the top menu bar.

Step 2: Go to File > Export > Save for Web (Legacy)

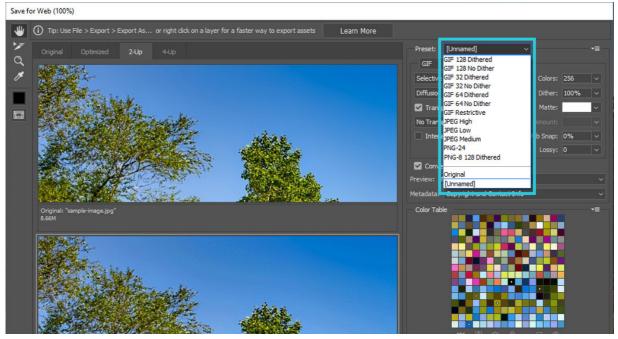


Go to File > Export > Save for Web (Legacy). You can also access this tool using the Alt + Shift + Ctrl + S keyboard shortcut in Windows and Command + Option + Shift + S in Mac.



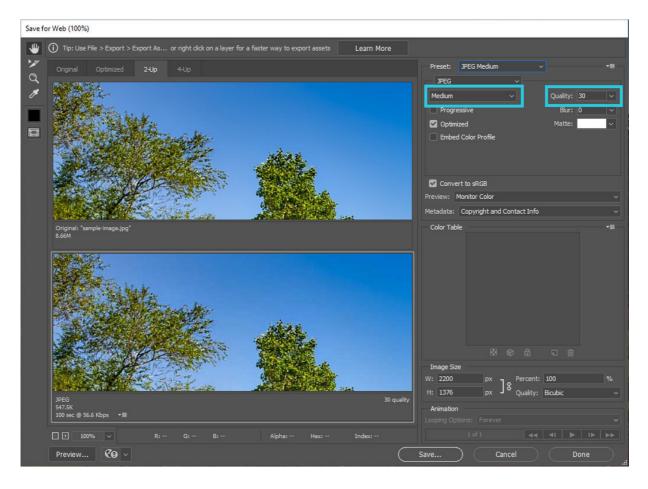
In the Save for Web popup, you'll see tabs across the top — Original, Optimized, 2-UP and 4-Up. If you click on 2-Up, it will show you your original and compressed image side-by-side.

Step 3: Select a Compression Level





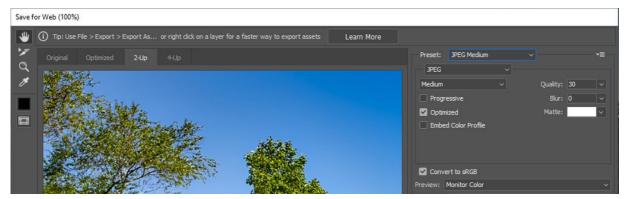
Expand the dropdown menu beside **Preset** and select one of the three JPEG options — JPEG High, JPEG Low or JPEG Medium. You can use the options below **Preset** to choose compression settings for JPEG files.

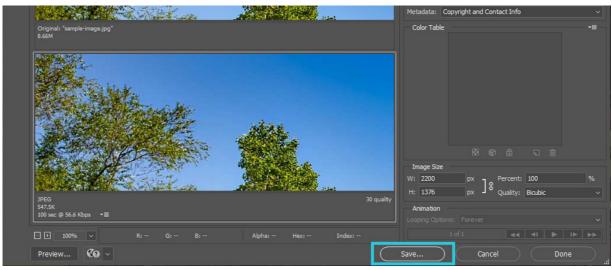


You can increase or decrease the compression level using the dropdown menu. You can also input a numerical value for **Quality**.

Step 4: Save Your File

ALT: Save the compressed image in Photoshop.





Once you've found the best compression setting for your image, click **Save...** to save the file on your computer.

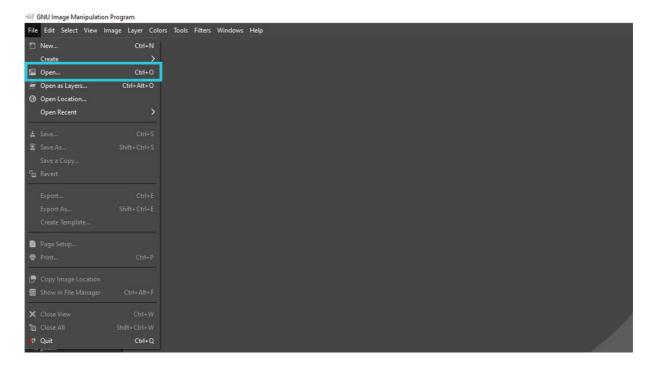
How To Resize an Image in GIMP

GIMP is an open-source image resizing tool with basic photo editing features.

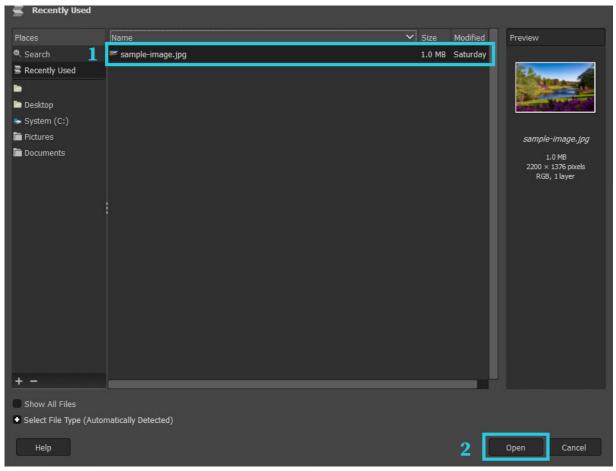
If you're on a budget and can't invest in a subscription to resize a photo in Photoshop, you can use GIMP instead.

Here's how to resize an image in GIMP:

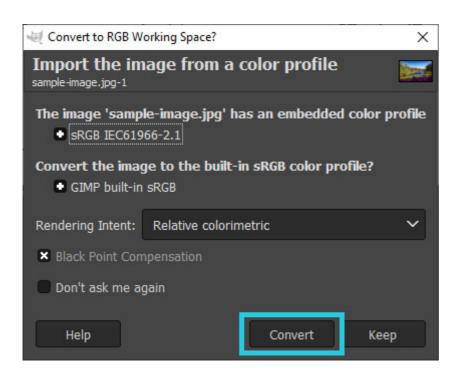
Step 1: Open the Image in GIMP



Open GIMP and go to File > Open.

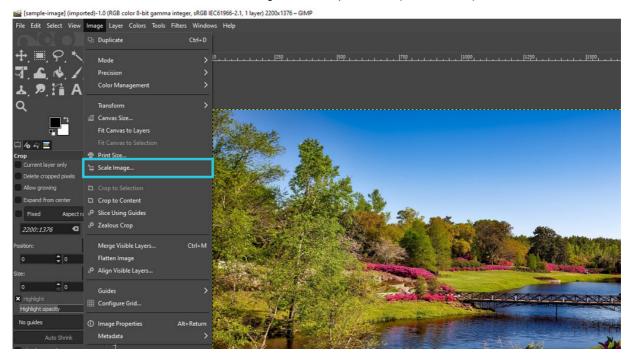


Select your image from the source folder on your computer and click **Open**. You can also drag and drop an image directly into the GIMP workspace to start editing it.



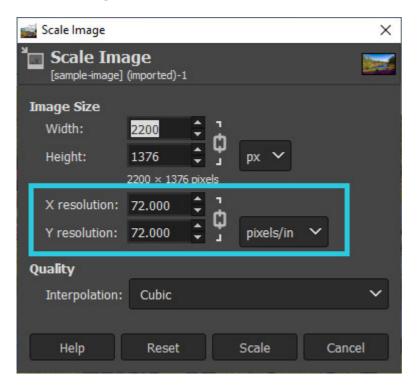
If the image you're opening has an embedded color profile, GIMP will ask if you wish to convert it to GIMP's built-in sRGB profile. Click Convert to change it to GIMP's profile or **Keep** to work with the original profile.

Step 2: Go to Image > Scale Image



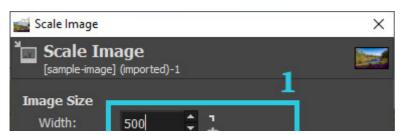
Go to Image > Scale Image... using the top menu.

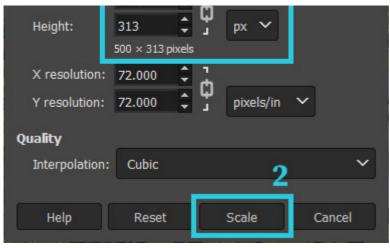
Step 3: Set the Image Resolution



Set the resolution for the image in the **Scale Image** popup -72 works best for images for the web. Make sure the unit of measurement is pixels/in.

Step 4: Input the Target Width and Height Values



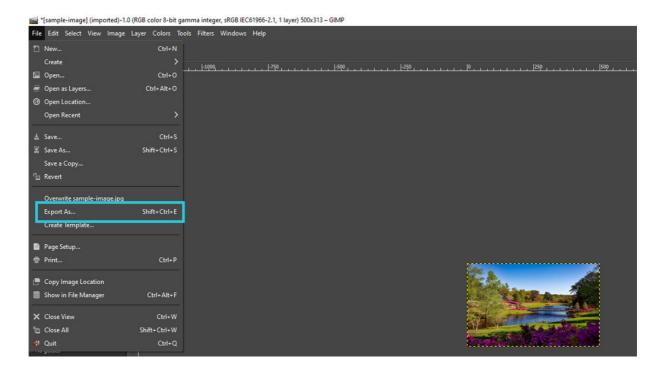


Next, verify the icon next to **Width** and **Height** shows a chain link. This setting ensures that when you change the value of either option, the other value updates proportionally, preserving the original image aspect ratio.

Enter your target image size and click Scale to resize the image.

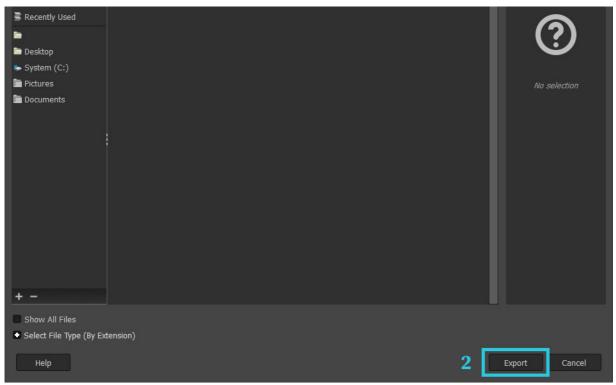
Step 5: Export the File

The process to save files as JPEG is different in GIMP compared to Photoshop. That is because GIMP saves files in the XCF file format.

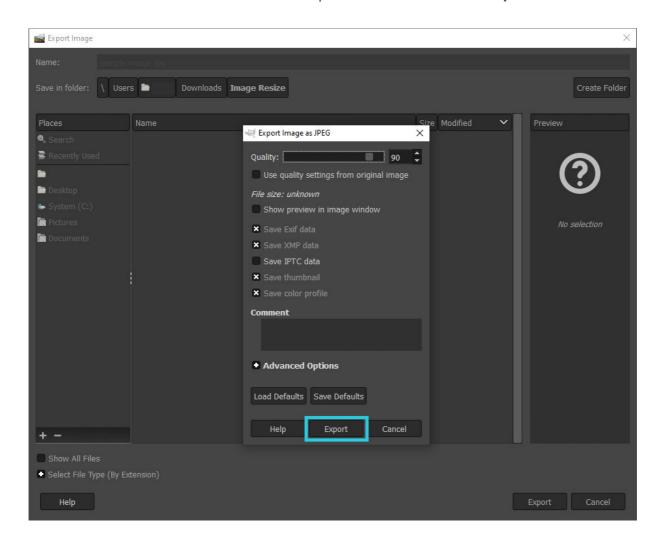


To save a resized image in GIMP as JPEG, go to **File > Export As**.





Choose the file save location, add a descriptive name and click **Export**.

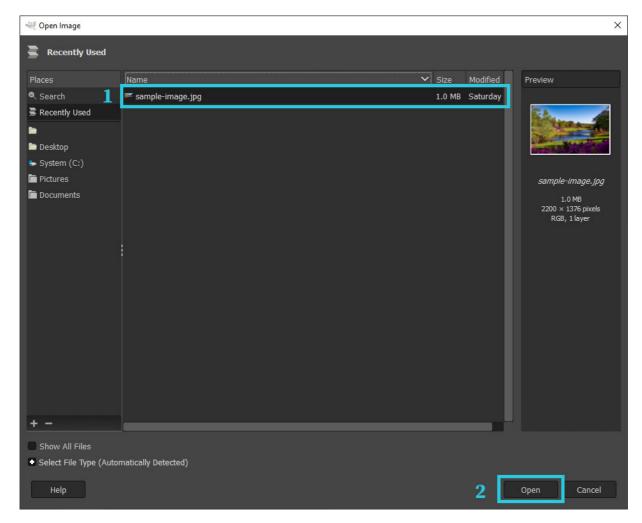


You'll see the Export Image as JPEG popup box. Here you can reduce the image file size by reducing the output quality. Or, use the default value and click **Export** to save the file.

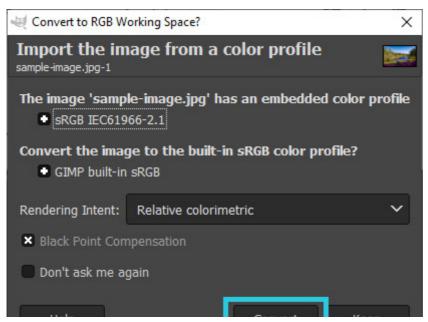
How To Compress an Image in GIMP

Besides resizing images, you can also learn how to compress an image in GIMP to reduce the size of an image. Here are the steps to do it:

Step 1: Open the Image in GIMP

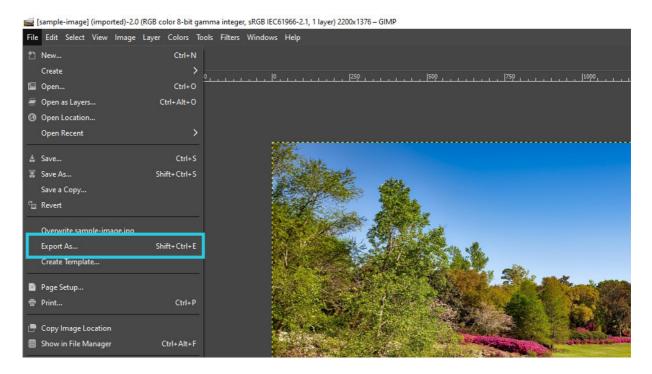


Go to File > Open in GIMP. Locate the image you want to edit in the file dialog box and click Open.

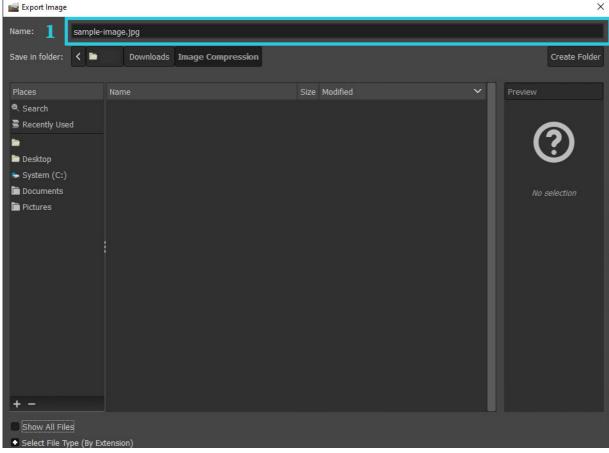


If your image has an embedded color profile, GIMP may ask you to convert it to its built-in sRGB profile. Click Keep to preserve details of the original image or Convert to change it to GIMP's profile.

Step 2: Go to File > Export As



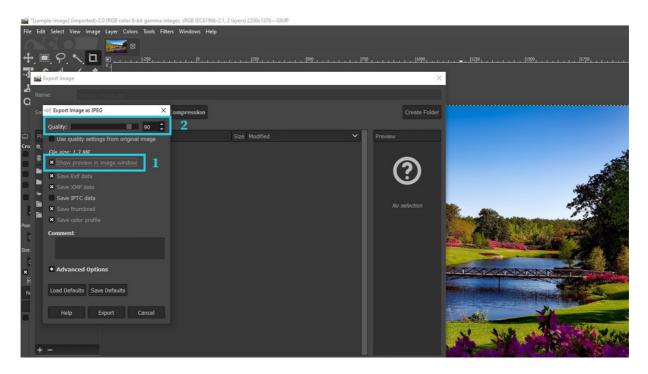
Go to **File > Export As** in the top menu bar.





In the **Export Image** window, choose the file save location, add a descriptive name and click **Export**.

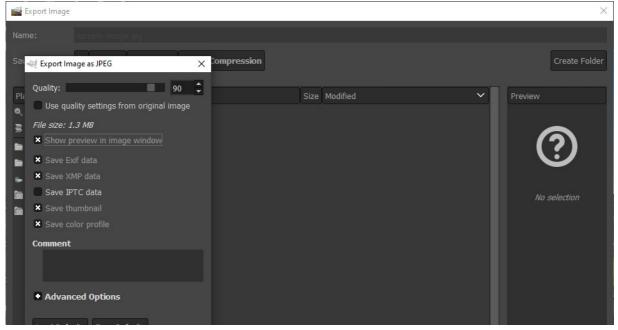
Step 3: Set the Image Quality

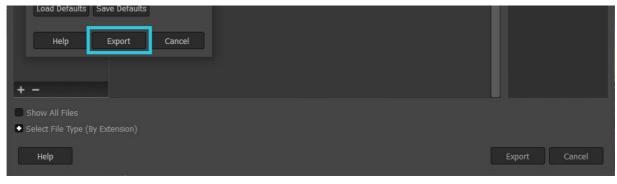


In the **Export Image as JPEG** popup, check the **Show preview in image window** checkbox and use the horizontal scrollbar to increase or decrease the image quality.

Alternatively, assign a numerical value in the numerical input box beside it. You'll notice the image quality change in the background.

Step 4: Export the File





When you're happy with the image compression, click **Export** to save the file.

Final Thoughts: How To Resize an Image in Photoshop and GIMP

Learning how to resize an image in Photoshop can help you reduce the page size and improve your website performance. After understanding the basics, you can play around with different resampling and compression settings to further optimize your images.



Tiffani Anderson

Tiffani is the Content and Social Marketing Manager for the Bluehost brand. She has a passion for creating engaging content, SEO and social media!

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